



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

News Release

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EMPLOYEE AT CHRISTIAN YOUTH CAMP ARRESTED ON CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES

FRESNO, Calif. — A maintenance worker for a religious children's camp in Sequoia National Park is expected to make his initial appearance in federal court here tomorrow to face charges of possession of child pornography.

Nathan Kicyla, 21, was arrested Wednesday at the Hume Lake Christian Children's Camp by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents and officers with the Computer Crimes Investigations Unit of the Fresno County Sheriff's Department.

The arrest came after administrators at the camp alerted the Sheriff's Department about suspicions the maintenance worker was keeping sexually explicit images of children on the computer in his residence on the grounds of the facility. A preliminary search of Kicyla's laptop computer turned up more than 100 images of child pornography.

"ICE is using every tool at its disposal to protect young people from sexual predators, particularly those like this individual who had access to children," said Scott Brown, Fresno ICE resident agent-in-charge. "That commitment, together with the stellar efforts of the Fresno County Sheriff's Department, should be reassuring to parents in this community."

Kicyla, who has worked at the children's camp for two years, is being held at the Fresno County Jail pending tomorrow's court appearance. At the present time, investigators have no evidence that any members of the camp were victims.

The Hume Lake Christian Children's Camp operates year-round and caters to youths from grade school through high school. During the peak summer months, the facility averages 2,000 campers a week.

Kicyla's arrest and prosecution is part of Operation Predator, an ongoing ICE enforcement initiative to protect children from pornographers, child prostitution rings, Internet predators, human traffickers, and other predatory criminals. Since the initiative began in July 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than 5,300 individuals nationwide, including more than 1,400 in California.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.